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12/20/02
F. Mueller
Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: ICHIHARA, et al

Serial No.: 09/700,494

Filed: November 16, 2000

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING
FLUOROALKYLCARBOXYLIC ACID

Examiner: Forohar, Farhad

Art Unit: 1621

Docket #: P06939US00/BAS

AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

DEC 19 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C.

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2002 and telephonic interview of July 23, 2002, please amend the above identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

It will be noted that claim 1 has been amended relative to the previously provided version as shown by the marked up version thereof in **Attachment A** provided herewith. A clean version of amended claim 1 is provided herewith in **Attachment B**.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 stand pending in the present application. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance based on the discussion which follows.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baer in view of Yonemitsu et al (hereinafter "Yonemitsu"). The Examiner asserts that Baer teaches that fluoro alcohols can be oxidized to the corresponding acids by nitric